

We claim:

1. A ventilator system for ventilating a patient, comprising:
 - a respirator for ventilating the patient;
 - a programmable processor responsive to selected ventilation parameters for controlling the respirator to ventilate the patient;
 - a memory connected to the processor for storing a plurality of ventilation parameters;
 - a display for displaying the plurality of ventilation parameters, including ventilation parameters currently used by the processor to control the respirator and a plurality of proposed ventilation parameters;
 - input means cooperating with the memory and the display for selecting one of the proposed ventilation parameters from the plurality of proposed ventilation parameters and for assigning values to the selected proposed ventilation parameter, the selected value being displayed by the display;
 - wherein one, or more than one of the proposed ventilator parameters may be selected in any order and values assigned to one, or more than one of the proposed ventilator parameters while the processor controls the ventilator using the currently used values of the ventilation parameters; and
 - wherein a user accepts the one or more assigned values of the proposed ventilator parameters by pressing a button and the processor stores the assigned proposed ventilator values in the memory, and controls the ventilator using the newly stored values.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the display further comprises a graphical representation of a breath cycle.
3. The system of claim 2, wherein the breath cycle comprises a time scale, an inspiration bar and an expiration bar, the length of the inspiration bar and the expiration bar being a function of the ventilator settings currently used by the processor to control the ventilator.

4. The system of claim 2, wherein the breath cycle comprises a time scale, an inspiration bar and an expiration bar, the length of the inspiration bar and the expiration bar being a function of the assigned values of the proposed ventilator settings.

5. The system of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of sensors connected to the processor for providing signals to the processor representing the status of the ventilation of the patient.

6. The system of claim 5, wherein the processor is responsive to a signal from a selected one of the plurality of sensors indicating that a patient is connected to the ventilator.